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NEWS RELEASE

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Jacqueline H. Nguyen Confirmed as Nation's First Vietnamese-American Judge

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate has confirmed President Obama's nomination of Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen to serve as a federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Nguyen, 44, was confirmed Tuesday on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate. She is expected to receive her commission shortly and will fill a judgeship vacant since May 22, 2006, when U.S. District Judge Nora M. Manella resigned to accept appointment to the California Court of Appeals.

Judge Nguyen, the first Vietnamese-American to be appointed as a federal district judge, was nominated by President Obama on July 31, 2009, and had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on September 23, 2009.

Judge Nguyen was appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2002 by Gov. Gray Davis. She was initially assigned to the Metropolitan Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles and later moved to the Alhambra courthouse.

Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Nguyen worked in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California from 1995 until 2002. She was promoted to the post of deputy chief of the general crimes section and won the director's award from the Department of Justice for superior performance as an assistant U.S. attorney.

Judge Nguyen received her undergraduate degree in 1987 from Occidental College, and her J.D. in 1991 from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law. Her first job out of law school was as an associate in the litigation department of Musick, Peeler & Garrett in Los Angeles.

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Judge Nguyen has been a member of numerous Asian-American bar groups, including the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Orange County, the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, the Korean American Bar Association and the Japanese American Bar Association. She was also a board member of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California had 14,444 case filings in 2008. The court is authorized 28 judgeships, four of which are vacant.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

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